

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview. By this amendment, Claims 1, 35, 36 and 70 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled, and no new matter has been introduced. Hence, Claims 1-70 are pending in the application.

SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS

Claims 1-15, 17-21, 25, 27, 31-33, 36-50, 52-56, 62, and 66-68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kimura et al., US Patent No. 6,636,588 (“Kimura”).

Claims 22-26, 34, 35, 57-61, 69, and 70 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura, in view of Papierniak et al., US Patent No. 6,151,601 (“Papierniak”).

Claims 28-30, and 63-65 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura, in view of Papierniak, and further in view of Moore et al., US Patent No. 6,330,575 (“Moore”).

CLAIM 1

Claim 1, as amended, now recites:

A method for provisioning databases for users on a wide area network, the method comprising the steps of:

- a first party managing one or more database systems;
- a plurality of second parties subscribing to database services supported by the one or more database systems managed by the first party, wherein the database services include services for storing and managing data provided by the second parties; and
- providing, over a network, to database applications controlled by the second parties, access to the database services to which the second parties are subscribed; and wherein the database applications, controlled by the second parties, interact with the database systems managed by the first party by sending, to the database systems, database commands that conform to the database language supported by the database system.

Claims 1 and 36 have been amended consistent with the discussion at the Examiner Interview. As amended, Claims 1 and 36 are allowable over the art of record. Specifically, Claims 1 and 36 have been amended to more specifically define what a “database application” is, based on how database applications and database systems interact. Thus, as now expressly defined in Claims 1 and 36, it is clear that browsers that allow users to interact with web servers and indirectly with databases are not themselves database applications.

All pending claims were rejected based on Kimura. However, whatever software Kimura is using on its machines to access billing data is not a database application, as thus defined.

Kimura, Papierniak, and Moore fail to disclose, teach or suggest, alone or in combination, all the limitations of independent Claims 1 and 36. Because dependent Claims 2-35 and 37-70 either directly or indirectly depend on Claims 1 and 36, they are patentable over Kimura, Papierniak, and Moore for at least the same reasons set forth above.

SUMMARY

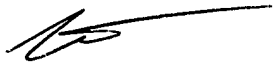
Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that pending Claims 1-70 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 8/4/2004 by Darci Sakamoto
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